REMARKS

Support for the amendments to claims 27 and 38 relating to "ester or amide linkages" may be found at page 2, lines 18-20. Support for the amendments relating to the composition of the device may be fond at page 3, lines 28-32 and in the Examples, pages 11-18.

Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 27-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of US 5,080,924 (Kamel). Kamel discloses coating a lens substrate with a first biocompatible material using plasma induced grafting. The first biocompatible material has pendant terminal carboxylic acid or amine groups and may be polyacrylic acid. (See claims 1 and 6, column 5, lines 44-52 and column 6, lines 3-5). Kamel also specifically discloses that "other methods of grafting, such as electronic or ultraviolet (UV) radiation are not suitable where it is desired (as it is here) to modify only the surface of the polymer material." (Column 6, lines 5-8). Kamel further discloses that a ***second*** biocompatible material (a polysaccharide, not acrylic acid) may be covalently crosslinked to the first biocompatible material using a coupling agent, which may be carbodiimide. (Claims 8 and 10 and column 8, lines 30-33). Kamel (column 8, lines 33-41) further makes it clear that it is the PAA in the coating which contributes the pendant terminal carboxylic acid groups which are available for crosslinking with the second biocompatible material. Kamel discloses only one way to attach acrylic acid to a lens substrate; via plasma induced grafting. There is absolutely no disclosure in Kamel which would suggest that acrylic acid could be covalently bound to the substrate material using a coupling agent.

The claims of the present invention, as amended, recite a process for coating at least one surface of a biomedical device which comprises hydroxyl groups, amino groups, or mixtures thereof. The biomedical device is coated by contacting the at least one surface with at least one carboxyl functional hydrophilic polymer and at least one coupling agent, to form an ester or amide linkage between carboxyl functionality of said carboxyl functional hydrophilic polymer and the hydroxyl or amino groups which are present in the polymer from which the device is made. Claims 29, 30 and 34-36 recite specific carboxyl functional polymers, none of which are polysaccharides. Clearly the claims of the present invention as amended are not obvious in view of Kamel.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments and arguments have traversed the Examiner's rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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